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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:	N. Aoyama	Examiner:	Cone, D.
Serial No.:	09/376,651	Group Art Unit:	2854
Filed:	August 18, 1998	Docket No.:	JA9-98-073
TITLE:	FEED ASSISTANCE MEMBER AND A MEDIUM PROCESSING APPARATUS		

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT FILED WITH  
CONTINUATION PROSECUTION APPLICATION  
UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(d)**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

RECEIVED

DEC 11 2000

TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

Dear Sir:

This Continuation Prosecution Application (CPA) filed pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.53(d) is submitted in response to the Final Office Action, dated July 6, 2000. In the Final Office Action the Examiner rejected all the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of a prior art. On November 3, 2000, the Examiner submitted an Advisory Action in which the Examiner denied entry of the Response to Final Office Action Applicant submitted on September 28, 2000. In response, Applicant submits this Preliminary Amendment to the claims. Applicant traverses the rejections and submit that pending claims 1-30 are patentable over the cited art.

Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(c), Part I of the amendment provides the amendment to the claims pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(c)(1)(i). Part II comprises the Remarks section pursuant to 37 CFR 1.111, and Part III comprises the "Version with Markings to Show Changes" under 37 CFR 1.121(c)(1)(ii). Further submitted with this Amendment is a clean version of all pending claims with no markings pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(c)(3).

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